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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 54

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TO AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM

T O P S E C R E T /SENSITIVE/CONTAINS CODEWORD

CITE WH40141

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER
TOHAK 054

MORI/CDF C03362238

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON REPORT

JAPANESE PRESS ON YOUR MEETING WITH MIKI: THE JAPANESE PRESS COVERAGE OF YOUR MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER MIKI CONVEYED AN IMAGE OF U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION AT ITS BEST. MIKI AND YOU WERE PICTURED AS HAVING HAD AN AMICABLE EXCHANGE ON HIS RECENT MIDEAST TRIP AND THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED ENERGY CONFERENCE. WHEN MIKI WAS ASKED ABOUT THE DIVERGENCE IN U.S. AND JAPANESE MIDEAST POLICIES, HE REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT LONG-RANGE COOPERATION WAS ESSENTIAL TO ANY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. CAPPING IT ALL, MIKI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT: "ALTHOUGH IT IS SAID THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IS COLD TOWARD JAPAN, AFTER OUR LONG MEETING TODAY MY IMPRESSION IS THAT HE IS VERY FRIENDLY TOWARD OUR COUNTRY." (FROEBE)

COALITION AGREEMENT IN TURKEY: THE LEFT-OF-CENTER REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AND THE RIGHT-WING NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) HAVE AGREED TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT. TOGETHER THESE TWO PARTIES HOLD A SLIM MAJORITY IN TURKEY'S NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

THUS FAR TURKEY'S POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO PUT TOGETHER A GOVERNMENT IN THE WAKE OF THE INCONCLUSIVE ELECTIONS THREE MONTHS AGO. LATELY THERE HAS BEEN GROWING EVIDENCE THAT TURKEY'S MILITARY LEADERS HAVE BEEN GETTING IMPATIENT OVER THE STALEMATE AND HAVE BEEN GIVING INCREASING CONSIDERATION TO INTERVENTION IF THE POLITICIANS CAN

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NOT SOON FORM A GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE MILITARY. THERE STILL REMAINS SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER THE MILITARY, WHICH HAS A STRONG SECULAR TRADITION, WILL ACCEPT A COALITION THAT DEPENDS ON THE ISLAM-ORIENTED NSP.

IF AN RPP-NSP COALITION TAKES OFFICE, RPP LEADER BULENT ECEVIT IS LIKELY TO BE THE NEW PRIME MINISTER. THE TWO PARTIES DISAGREE ON MANY ISSUES BUT SHARE A POPULIST APPROACH ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THEY ALSO SHARE NATIONALISTIC ATTITUDES ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. FOR THE U.S., AN RPP-NSP COALITION COULD BE SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THAN THE MODERATELY CONSERVATIVE, PRO-WEST REGIMES THAT HAVE RULED TURKEY IN RECENT YEARS. FOR EXAMPLE, NEITHER PARTY IS HAPPY WITH TURKEY'S TWO AND ONE-HALF YEAR OLD U.S.-SUPPORTED BAN ON OPIUM PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, THE NEW COALITION PROBABLY WOULD NOT TRY TO ABANDON THE COUNTRY'S BASIC PRO-WEST, PRO-NATO ORIENTATION. (APPELBAUM) 25X1

INITIAL REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCED MERGER SUGGESTS THAT MOST ARABS WERE TAKEN BY TOTAL SURPRISE. NEIGHBORING STATES LIKE MOROCCO AND ALGERIA ARE CURRENTLY PRIVATELY EXPRESSING SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF QADHAFI'S INFLUENCE IN AN UNIFIED TUNISIAN-LIBYAN STATE. REPORTS FROM BOTH CAPITALS INDICATE SURPRISE AND ANGER AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT, INCREASED IN PART BY TUNISIA'S LACK OF CONSULTATION AND THE FACT THAT BOURGUIBA HAD BEEN MAKING OVERTURES TOWARDS THESE STATES FOR BETTER RELATIONS. EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS THUS FAR ONLY GIVEN MINIMAL TREATMENT TO THE MERGER, AND NOT ALL OF IT FAVORABLE.

THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE MOTIVES FOR THE MERGER:

--PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS LONG TALKED ABOUT ARAB UNITY AND SPECIFICALLY WITH LIBYA, THOUGH MORE NORMALLY IN TERMS THAT IT WOULD TAKE GENERATIONS TO ACCOMPLISH.

--BOURGUIBA HAS ALSO INDICATED INTEREST IN MODERATING QADHAFI AND RETURNING HIM TO THE ARAB MAINSTREAM.

--TUNISIA IS ALSO PRESUMABLY INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

QADHAFI HAS BEEN DISPLEASED WITH THE FAILURE OF THE EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN MERGER AND UNHAPPY WITH EGYPT'S TURN AWAY FROM LIBYA AND TOWARD PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. LATE PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT BOURGUIBA WILL BE PRESIDENT AND QADHAFI VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW UNION, BUT ALSO REPORTS

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THAT TUNISIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER MASMUDI--BELIEVED TO BE THE MAIN INSTIGATOR OF MERGER--HAS BEEN REPLACED IN A CABINET SHAKE-UP IN TUNISIA.

PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA YESTERDAY SUMMONED AMBASSADOR SEELYE SPECIFICALLY TO ASSURE HIM THAT LIBYAN-TUNISIAN UNITY WOULD NOT BE INCONSISTENT WITH TUNISIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. OR U.S. INTERESTS. BEYOND THAT, HE HAD LITTLE ELSE TO SAY, ALLUDING BRIEFLY TO THE PROSPECT OF GREATER ECONOMIC COOPERATION. MORE NOTABLE, AMBASSADOR SEELYE FOUND BOURGUIBA IN A VERY TIRED, OVER-WROUGHT STATE AND REPORTS THAT HE DID NOT MAKE MUCH SENSE. SEELYE SUSPECTS THAT BOURGUIBA'S FRAME OF MIND MAY HAVE BEEN PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SURPRISE DECISION AND BELIEVES THAT, PENDING A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THIS MERGER MEANS, THE SHORT-TERM U.S. INTERESTS MAY NOT BE AFFECTED. IS STILL SEEMS LIKELY THAT A REAL TUNISIAN-LIBYAN UNION IS A LONG WAY OFF. (NIEHUSS/QUANDT)

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